

Gator Gazette



AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND ◊ 917th WING, BARKSDALE AFB, LA ◊ JANUARY 2002

Holidays in the zone

Story and Photos by a deployed 93rd Bomb Squadron weapons loader

Thanksgiving has passed here in Central Command, and the Christmas lights are going up all over camp. I've been answering letters from children back home, because it makes me feel good about what I am doing here. It makes missing Christmas with my family somewhat bearable.

As the Christmas lights brightly shine against the clear night sky, I begin to relax under the soothing, blue light given off by the bug zapper outside our tent. On the radio, Bing Crosby sings "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas."

It's December in Camp Justice, and all is quiet. I drift away to a time in my childhood when my dad and I would go on our traditional quest for the "perfect" Christmas tree. We would walk for what seemed like hours through acres upon acres of trees, my excitement growing with every step. Eventually, we would find a tree we both liked.

I really miss those days and just hope that my son realizes that I want to be there with him to pick out the first tree he'll be old enough to remember. Even after my father and I would see the big hole in the side of it, we didn't care because it was our tree. I know my son would feel the same. I wish my father were still alive; I know that he would help me out with making my son's Christmas as special as he always made mine.

Suddenly my thoughts of Christmas are interrupted by the rumbling of a B-52's engines as it lumbers its way down the runway heading into the night on another combat mission. The wheels of war keep spinning. The song, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" starts to play on the radio, and I think to myself about the winter storm last Christmas that caused so much damage.

I drove to Arkansas to help some friends who were without power for weeks. Even though it was a major disaster, I remember the closeness that everyone felt as we sat around the fireplace telling of the first memory that we remembered in life. That seems like paradise now.

The Louisiana State University flag that is displayed on the front of our tent pops in the wind as a warm tropical breeze blows through the tent. Sweat begins to collect on my brow as I yearn for the cold, brisk days of winter. I'm wishing more and more that Christmas would never come.

There may not be a family gathering for me in Texas this year, but as the scent of the camp dining hall drifts through the air, I know I have family here too that will share my pain.

The hundreds of letters we get from kids help ease the pain. They are so supportive. There's always a card addressed to any



Master Sgt. John, a 93rd Bomb Squadron weapons loader checks the air pressure in his blow up star that sits atop the blow up Christmas tree. A 93 BS spouse sent Christmas decorations to help create the holiday season in the operating location while they support the U. S. Central Command.

soldier. They write us poems, draw us pictures, ask a million questions and always end their letters by saying how proud they are of us.

In the back of my mind, I wonder how Santa will find us in a place where there are no children. Maybe he can follow the lights of the landing B-52s as they return from their missions on Christmas Eve.

I know that as we all say goodnight on Christmas Eve sleep will be far from our minds. I imagine we'll all lay there wondering what our families are doing and hoping that all the bikes, dollhouses, and toys were put together for Christmas morning. One by one we'll all drift off to sleep not with the anticipation that we had as kids waiting for Santa, but with the sadness of not waking to the happy faces of our families.



Gator Gazette

917th Wing
Office of Public Affairs
1000 Davis Avenue E
Bldg. 6803, Rm. 229
Barksdale AFB, LA 71110
Vol. 9 No. 1
January 2002

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UTA Sunday at noon is the deadline for submitting articles to public affairs for publication in the following month's issue of the *Gator Gazette*.

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A positive attitude goes a long way

Greetings. I am Lt. Col. George Pierce, the new 917th Logistics Group commander. Thanks to everyone for a warm and wonderful welcome. It's rare to feel like part of a family so quickly, but both Robin, my wife, and I already know we are welcome. The Wing has a great reputation, and it is easy to see why—great people!

From what I have seen, it really warms my heart to be part of an organization that cares about people. From Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle at the top to our youngest airman, the people at the 917th care about each other. I have yet to meet anyone that does not fit this description.

Caring about others falls under one of our core values -- "Service." In my mind, service

is an attitude more than anything else. That explains why the 917th has enjoyed so much success—everyone has a great attitude. A positive attitude can go a long way. During inspections, it provides some wiggle room in areas that are not as good as we would like them to be. Mostly, a positive approach and attitude help us communicate better, get on the same page, and get the job done the very best it can be accomplished. The proof is in the recognition this wing has received from multiple Chief of Staff Team Excellence Awards, the Best B-52 Team during Gunsmoke '95, the AF Outstanding Unit Award, to Maintenance Effectiveness Awards for the past three years. These are just a few of many



Lt. Col. George Pierce

awards and recognition. Wow!

I hope I will be able to share some of the lessons I have learned in my 26-plus year Air Force career. I know I have a lot to learn, and I can't think of a better place to be. I am most impressed by what I have seen and am looking forward to working and serving with each of you.

In All Times

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bill Willis, Sr.

Many people have observed that the past year has changed our lives forever. "911" has taken on a new meaning. Security at home and abroad has appropriately renewed interest. The future seems less certain to many folks. I am reminded of the words found in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

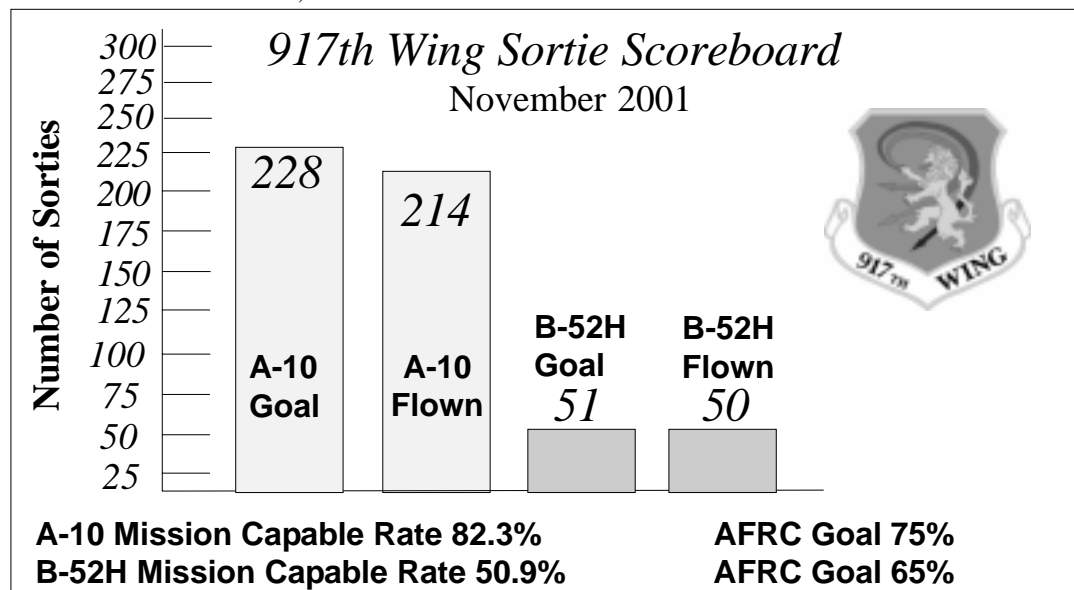
A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

A time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, A time to embrace and a time to refrain, A time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, A time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, A time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. (NIV)

During this coming year 2002, we will face many different kinds of time, but the USAF Chaplain Service is here to remind us all that whatever time we face, we can be sure God will be with us and will see us through to the end. Praise be to God. Have a blessed New Year!



307th RED HORSE picks up the load

Photos and Story by Tech. Sgt. Diana Perusin
Wing Public Affairs

The Det. 1, 307th RED HORSE squadron has picked up the load for the 2nd Bomb Wing Civil Engineer Squadron. The 2 CES recently requested assistance due to a shortage of personnel, and the RED HORSE was there to answer the call.

In November approximately 20 RED HORSE members began augmenting the 2 BW and are expected to continue through approximately Dec. 28. They have been working on a variety of projects from roofing to road construction. Not only are they providing assistance to benefit Barksdale AFB, but they are also supporting the ongoing missions overseas. "One of the taskings has been to prefabricate boxes for shipments of goods to our people overseas," says Chief Master Sgt. Gary, heavy equipment repair chief and individual mobilization augmentee for the 2 CES.

"So many folks have been deployed that we are in a crunch... They (RED HORSE) are very accommodating and are doing a great job," said Virgil Barnette, Civil Engineer, 2 CES. Normally when CE work orders get too far behind, the base has to resort to hiring contractors to do much of the backlogged work. The 307th RED HORSE stepped up to the plate and eased the workload for the 2 BW.

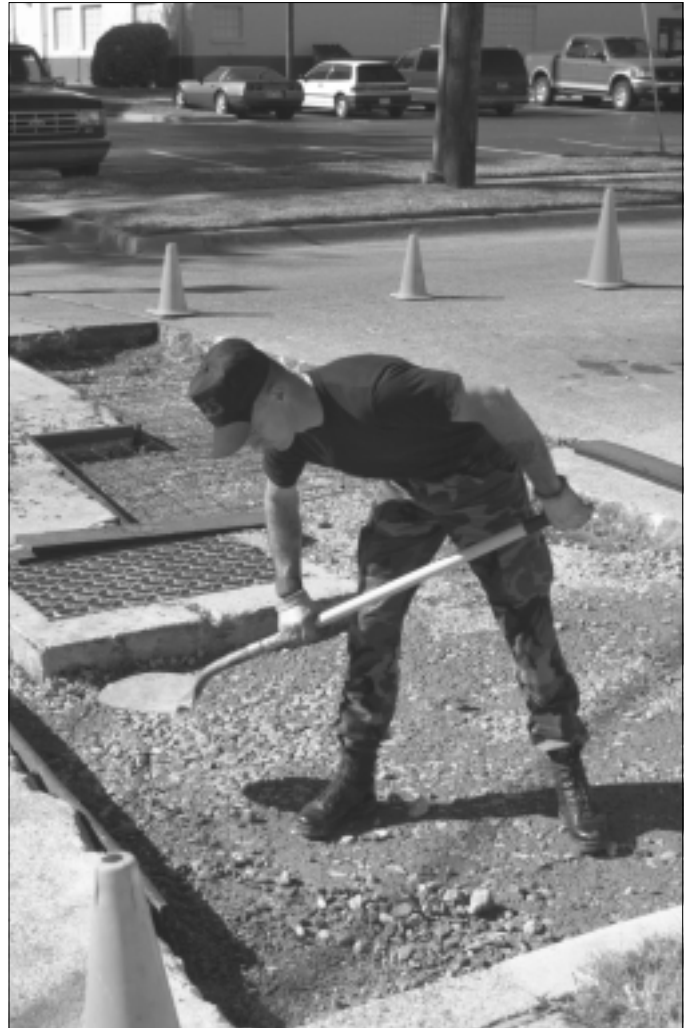
"Projects that had been placed on the back-burner because of the lack of personnel are being completed now with the help of RED HORSE personnel," said Gary. One of the projects was the roadwork on Lindberg Road in front of the old base gym. The road buckled, raised and then started to crack over time and was badly in need of repair. The horizontal crews dug up the street, poured concrete, and repaired the road opening it up to traffic once again.

The 307th personnel are also involved in the upcoming construction of a training building/firehouse for the fire department on the East Reservation.

"We are trying to show just what we can do," said Staff Sgt. Larry, 307th RED HORSE aviation heavy equipment repair operator from Texarkana, Texas. Larry works full time as a front-end alignment and brake mechanic. "Working out here isn't too much different from my regular job. Everyone has been very cooperative and has been working with us."



PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. DIANA PERUSIN
Staff Sgt. John carries form material for a concrete job on Barksdale while activated from the 307th RED HORSE.



Staff Sgt. Larry, 307th RED HORSE heavy equipment operator shovels gravel into a form before pouring concrete on Lindberg Avenue.



RED HORSE personnel activated to backfill base civil engineers prepare a section of road on Lindberg Avenue for concrete repairs.

NEWS Briefs.....

Medical and dental bennies for mobilized reservists

Mobilized reservists receive the same medical and dental coverage as their active-duty counterparts. Their families become eligible for TRICARE benefits depending on the duration of the sponsors' active-duty orders. To help families of reservists activated for Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, the Department of Defense has waived TRICARE deductibles for care received since Sept. 14. More information about these benefits is available at www.defenselink.mil/news and www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/default.htm.

AF aid eligibility expands for reservists

Emergency financial aid to reservists on annual tour is now available through the Air Force Aid Society. In the past, reservists had access to Air Force aid if called to active duty for 30 days or more, but now assistance is available for those on orders for 15 days or more. The society looks at a person's situation on a case-by-case basis.

For more information about Air Force Aid Society assistance, call the family support office.

Web assistance for called up ARTS

Air reserve technicians called to active duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom can obtain helpful information on the Air Force Reserve Command restricted Web site by logging onto the Headquarters AFRC directorate of personnel's civilian personnel division site. In addition to benefits and entitlements, ARTs can learn about time and attendance; leave and duty status; attending training while mobilized; information about active-duty service at full-service and limited-service bases; Office of Personnel Management assistance; Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment

Rights Act of 1994; Stop-loss, waivers, delays and exemptions; other guidance; and links to miscellaneous Web sites.

Travel vouchers during Charlie

The travel voucher drop boxes are not accessible when the base is in Threatcon Charlie. The claims must be hand carried to the travel section in building 5345.

According to the travel section, this can also speed up the pay process. If a claim is dropped off and it contains errors, this prolongs the process to pay the individual. Going to the travel section personally allows a review of the voucher that ensures it is correct before it is submitted.

For more information, contact the Military Pay section at 456-2771.

2002 Military Family Week essay, art contest open

Children of military members can enter the Armed Services YMCA 2002 art and essay contest.

The art contest accepts artwork from children in kindergarten through sixth grade depicting their active-duty, Guard or Reserve military families. Top prize winners will receive \$500 U.S. Savings Bonds and have their artwork printed on posters for worldwide distribution next year in observance of Military Family Week.

The essay contest accepts essays on any subject related to reading. This contest is open to first- through 12th-graders and offers Savings Bond prizes of up to \$1,000. Children of active-duty, the reserves and retired members of the uniformed services and of DoD, Coast Guard and American mission civilian employees can enter.

Full contest guidelines are on the Armed Services YMCA Web site at www.asymca.org. Entry deadline is March 18.

Alabama visits 917th Wing to show support



Maj. Marc Olson, an A-10 pilot, gives Teddy Gentry of the band Alabama a tour of the A-10 during his visit to the 917th Wing.

Four members from the band Alabama sign autographs at the Base Exchange on Nov. 30. The entertainers, performing in the local area, visited the base to show their support of the military.

PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. DIANA PERUSIN

Reservists join 917th Wing

Eighteen new reservists joined the 917th Wing. They will attend the newcomers briefing and then join their respective squadrons.

917th Security Forces Squadron
Senior Airman Paul Benoist, Dallas, Texas
917th Operations Support Flight
Capt. Ruben Conzalez, Fort Worth, Texas
917th Mission Support Squadron
Capt. Allen Spillers, Haughton, La.
917th Medical Squadron

2Lt. Michael Hicks, Shreveport, La.
Staff Sgt. Debbie Brown, Tyler, Texas
917th Logistic Support Squadron
Senior Airman Pamela Johnson, Shreveport, La.
917th Maintenance Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Thomas Beckman, Shreveport, La.
Staff Sgt. Tracy Taylor, Decatur, Texas
Senior Airman Brian Scheckles, Shreveport, La.
Senior Airman Heath Kniefely, Shreveport, La.
917th Communication Flight
Staff Sgt. James Sullivan, Shreveport, La.

917th Civil Engineer Squadron
Senior Airman Steven Zerr, Leesville, La.
Airman 1st Class Jordan Rutherford, Hooks, Texas
93rd Bomb Squadron
Maj. Kevin Stevens, Englewood, Fla.
Capt. Raymond Crews, Bossier City, La.
307th RED HORSE
Master Sgt. Robert Summerford, Monticello, Ark.
Tech. Sgt. Mark Lee, Tyler, Texas
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Black, Redwater, Texas

Achievers make it happen



Chief Master Sgt. Richard Olson, 93rd Bomb Squadron Maintenance superintendent retired after 34 years of military and civilian service. He and his wife Carolyn received their certificates and awards during the December commander's call (Photo by Senior Airman Shannon Collins).



The 917th Recruiting Service won the Operating Location Recruiting Excellence Award for 2001 for exceeding their recruiting goal. This is a Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service Award. Tech. Sgt. TeNeuss Land, Master Sgts. Don Copeland and Joe Menna, Chief Master Sgts. Larry Woods and John Brasher, Staff Sgt. Matt Lucas, Tech. Sgts. Gary Johnson and Clark Fitzpatrick and Master Sgt. Ellen Shaheed. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Diana Perusin)



Senior Airman Maude Aught
Outstanding Operations Resource
Management Airman of the Year 2000
(AFRC & 10 AF)



Tech. Sgt. Karen Oakes
AFRC Survival Equipment Technician
of the Year 2000



Staff Sgt. Wendell Weeks
Noncommissioned Officer of the
Quarter

Security Forces move on up

Story and Photos by Betty Stephens
Wing Public Affairs

The 917th Security Forces Squadron has waited seven-years for a new facility. By April the wait should be over.

The current facility is a temporary box structure with no windows. It regularly loses network connectivity, electricity and water. The building also lacks security and has birds and squirrels living in the ceiling.

"Our people have been working in this building about seven years; that is a long time to work in these conditions," said 917th SFS commander Capt. Thaldaris Talley. The temperature is never just right, and when all the squadron members are here for the unit training assembly, there is not enough room to train and work properly. The current facility is approximately 4,000 square feet and the new building will not only provide more space, but a better quality working environment.

"The new facility is going to be equipped to bring the squadron up to standards for the 21st century; there will be room to organize in line with the command organizational structure; thereby, personnel will be more efficient because they will have adequate working space," said Talley. "Entering the new facility will be the biggest morale boost for the troops; that is very important."

The Henderson Construction Services, Inc., of Shreveport, La., project superintendent Michael Ehrlinspiel said if all



PHOTO BY BETTY STEPHENS

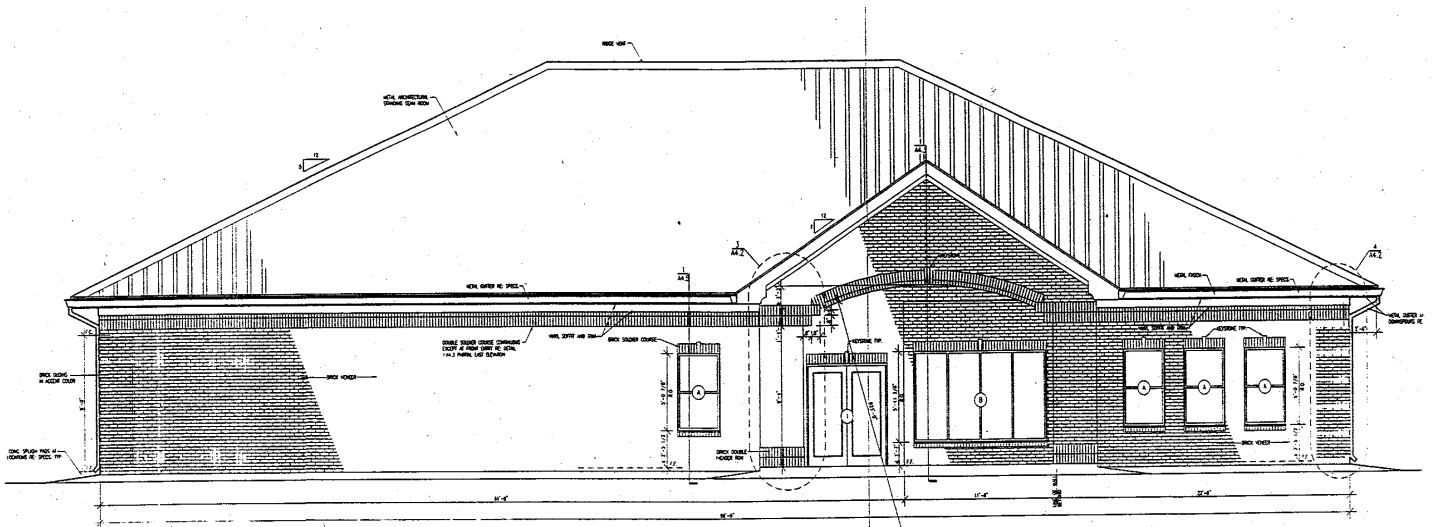
Staff Sgt. David Stewart, 917th SFS Combat Arms instructor talks to one of the contractors working on the new Security Forces facility.

goes according to plan, the 6,500 square foot building should be complete and ready for use in April.

Tech. Sgt. Sonya Ivy, 917th SFS Orderly Room Noncommissioned Officer in Charge is very excited about the facility and says, "The new building will have everything we need—male and female restrooms with showers allowing us to clean up after completing the required

physical training. Also it will have a training room, a conference room, radio control room, and more. Actually, there will be 15 secure rooms dedicated for offices and technical space."

"The new building is long overdue, and I am grateful to the commander and all of my superiors for supporting this project, which has been scheduled for a few years," said Talley.



Front view of the new Security Forces Squadron building that is expected to be finished in mid April 2002.

Native Americans celebrate heritage



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DIANA PERUSIN

A Powwow dancer performs during the 3rd annual Powwow at Barksdale AFB.



PHOTO BY DAVID ALFORD

Master Sgt. Sandy Alford, Personnel Relocations chief and Elaine Fairbanks, Operations Group administration clerk dance in the Powwow circle, Nov. 24.



PHOTO BY DAVID ALFORD

Barksdale Native American Heritage committee participates in the Shreveport Veteran's Day parade on Nov. 11 on the Clyde Fant Parkway.

Reservists cope with changes caused by call-up

*By Senior Airman Robert Sperling
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs*

Reservists called to active duty to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle are finding a renewed sense of purpose and patriotism as they answer their country's call.

"After the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, I was the only one of my college classmates that was able to be a part of the response," said a senior airman assigned to an Air Force Reserve Command unit from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. "It is a great feeling to be a part of something good."

Besides their contributions to America's war on terrorism, the more than 9,000 reservists who have been called-up since Sept. 20 are receiving additional pay and benefits while on active-duty status. Their entitlements include increased military pay, basic allowances for housing and subsistence, continental United States cost-of-living expenses, and medical and dental benefits for themselves and their families while activated.

An activated reservist receives pay based on years of service and grade. For example, a technical sergeant with more than 18 years of service gets \$2,421.30 a month, plus basic allowances for housing and basic allowance for subsistence.

A Reserve technical sergeant with the 917th Civil Engineer Squadron at Barksdale AFB, La., said, "The change in pay from civilian life to active duty has been a respectable increase."

While on active duty as a fireman, he is augmenting the active force's 2nd CES at Barksdale and will receive about \$40,800 annually. In civilian life, where he is also a fireman, he makes about \$22,800 a year after his retirement and medical benefits are withdrawn.

Some allowances are not taxable for people on active duty and their medical insurance and retirement benefits are not withheld from their paychecks. Mobilized reservists receive the same medical and dental coverage as their active-duty counterparts. Their families become eligible for TRICARE benefits depending on the duration of the sponsors' active-duty orders. To help families of reservists activated for Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, the Department of Defense has waived TRICARE deductibles for care received since Sept. 14.

The activation of reservists has caught some families off guard.

"Our command staff had to set up a support chain for all of the reservists and their families who were unfamiliar with all of the new benefits available to them and to assist them as they transition to active duty," said a lieutenant in a security forces squadron in the western United States.

"The majority of my troops are in good spirits and are very excited to be able to participate in such a worthwhile mission and



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO

Two 93rd Bomb Squadron people wait in an Air Force terminal during transit to the operating location in support of the U. S. Central Command.

wish that they could do more," he said. "We have had troops in our squadron who either recently separated or were about to separate reconsider their decision and re-enlist just to be a part of this mission."

Reservists called to active duty are protected by federal law under the Uniformed Services Re-employment Rights Act of 1994. The USERRA provides servicemembers, upon release from active duty, the right to return to their former position or one of similar status, seniority and pay. USERRA applies to involuntary and voluntary duty.

Reservists and their families are heeding their country's call to arms and doing their best to make a difference; however, for some families, the transition to active-duty military pay and benefits has not been an easy one.

Some corporations are stepping up to cover monthly health insurance premiums and other company benefits for their employees.

The Air Force Aid Society can help activated reservists and their families make the transition, especially if paychecks have been slow in arriving. The AFAS supplies families with basic living needs, emergency travel funds, solutions to child-care problems, and emergency assistance loans and grants and more.

Married reservists and their families are not the only ones having to adjust to full-time military service. The Charleston airman was enrolled in law school when the Sept. 11 terrorist attack occurred.

"After being activated, I had to put that on hold to pursue the needs of my country," he said. "The really great part about serving my country in this way is that the school is holding my spot in this highly competitive degree program."

Surprise attack wakes Americans

Senior Airman Shannon Collins
Wing Public Affairs

It was a sunny morning when it all began. A little after 8 a.m., the sound of bombs exploding and airplanes zooming overhead surprised the airmen and changed America's history.

"Somebody looked out the window and said, 'Oh my gosh — we're being attacked by the Japanese,'" said Irvin Henze, a former 47th Pursuit Squadron pilot and retired colonel.

The attack

Sixty years ago today, 23-year old Army Air Corps 2nd Lt. Henze was at Wheeler Field in Hawaii when the first wave of the attack on Pearl Harbor started. He was assigned to the 47 PS, which later evolved into Barksdale's 47th Fighter Squadron. As he passed burning hangars and frantic crews trying to salvage aircraft, he headed to an auxiliary field called Haleiwa, which was 20 miles from Pearl Harbor.

Three days before the infamous attack, the squadron had taken its planes and people to Haleiwa for gunnery exercises. Though the location was just an open sand pasture with no lights or runway, the preliminary move saved the people and planes from the nearby attacks. By the time Henze reached his plane, everyone was getting ready for the next wave of attacks.

As they jumped into their airplanes, 11 P-40s and one P-36, and flew over the island, they saw smoke and fire.

"There was a fair amount of smoke from Wheeler Field but then we got down over Pearl Harbor, and it was just terrible — just clouds and clouds of black smoke, and you could still see the fire on the water where the oil and everything was burning. It looked like total chaos down there," said Henze.

During the waves of surprise attacks, the 47 PS pilots took out seven of the 11 enemy aircraft shot down that day. 2nd Lt. John Dains was the only 47 PS pilot to be shot down and killed during the attack.

As the day grew late, the weather turned dark and rain became drizzle, the attacks stopped. The pilots slept that night in their armed and refueled aircraft.

"It was wet and cold, and everyone was a little worried because 100 feet from where we were taking off and landing was the ocean. What if they come with an invasion fleet?" said Henze.

The day after

The next day, the squadron began what became standard procedure for six months. They stayed at alert and routinely flew out to sea and back, checking to see if there would be a return attack. As the airmen slept in tents, they waited anxiously for a chance to reach home via telegraph to tell their families they were okay.

"My family was pretty upset because I couldn't get word to



AF COURTESY PHOTO

Maj Norvel Heath, Commander of the 47th Fighter Pursuit Squadron 1941. Shown with Mammy Yokum nose art. Mammy Yokum nose art exists on the A-10 flown by the Commander just like in 41. Rights to toons granted by Al Capp.

them until about a week later that I was okay," said Henze.

Henze and many others continued to fight in World War II. Over the next 20 years, the 47 PS underwent many changes and played a major role in America's wars and conflicts. It came to Barksdale Oct. 1, 1973, and is now an A-10 training school. From 1993 to 1996, the squadron flew 501 sorties as part of the NATO peacekeeping effort by supporting the United Nations' no-fly rule over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The squadron flew in the first and last major air actions in World War II, said Col. Patrick Cord, 47 FS commander.

The message

"While it's significant that we remember Dec. 7, 1941, and how the events of that day affected our country, it is important to remember all of the men and women in uniform who have given us the ultimate sacrifice throughout the history of our great country to protect and preserve the principles on which the United States of America was founded," said Cord.

Since the Sept. 11 tragedy, people have compared the attack with Pearl Harbor.

"It is important and essential to recognize dates such as Dec. 7, 1941. We need to remember an event like the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, not just that it was an unprovoked attack but because it awakened America," said Buck Rigg, 8th Air Force Museum director. "History does repeat itself, and one lesson we should take from Dec. 7 to help us with Sept. 11 is that through courage and sacrifice, right will prevail."

"The American troops — there are none any better. People should keep their faith up and really be 100 percent behind their people in the service," Henze said.

Voices: If you were deployed for the holidays, what is the one thing you would miss most of all?



Tech. Sgt. Chris Bowman
917th Security Forces Squadron

"I would miss my friends and family most of all."



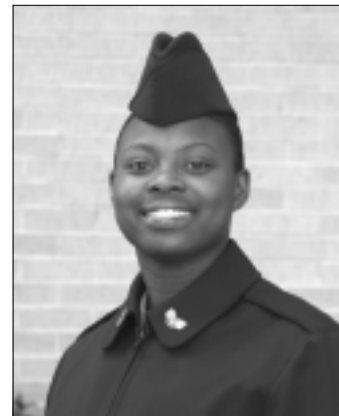
Senior Airman Sandra Segalla
917th Wing

"I would miss my husband the most with my dog and cats coming in a close second."



Tech. Sgt. Anthony Vann
917th Wing

"I would miss all the great get togethers with family and friends and all the food."



Senior Airman LaToya Dorsey
917th Mission Support Squadron

"I would miss my 8-month old son, Arique."

The difference

By Col. Steven Arrington
17th Training Wing vice commander

Over the years, I've talked a lot about military spouses...how special they are and the price they pay for freedom.

The funny thing about it, is most military spouses don't consider themselves different from other spouses. They do what they have to do, bound together not by blood or merely friendship, but with a shared spirit ...the very essence of what love truly is. Is there truly a difference?

-Other spouses get married and look forward to building equity in a home and putting down family roots. Military spouses get married and know they'll live in base housing or rent, and their roots must be short so they can be transplanted frequently.

-Other spouses decorate a home with flair and personality that will last a lifetime. Military spouses decorate a home with flare tempered with the knowledge that no two houses have the same size windows or same size rooms. Curtains have to be flexible and multiple sets are a plus. Furniture must fit like puzzle pieces.

-Other spouses have living rooms that are immaculate and seldom used.

Military spouses have immaculate living room/dining room combos. The coffee table got a scratch or two moving from Germany, but it still looks pretty good.

-Other spouses say good-bye to their spouse for a business trip and know they won't see them for a week. They are lonely, but can survive. Military spouses say good-bye to their deploying spouse and know they won't see them for months, or a year. They are lonely, but will survive.

-Other spouses, when a washer hose blows off, call Maytag and then write a check out for getting the hose reconnected. Military spouses will cut the water off and fix it themselves.

-Other spouses get used to saying "hello" to friends they see all the time. Military spouses get used to saying "good-bye" to friends they make.

-Other spouses worry about whether their child will be class president next year. Military spouses worry about whether their child will be accepted in yet another new school and whether that school will be the worst in the city...again.

-Other spouses put up yellow ribbons when the troops are imperiled across the globe and take them down when the troops come home. Military spouses wear yellow ribbons around their hearts, and they never go away.

-Other spouses worry about being late for mom's Thanksgiving dinner. Military spouses worry about getting back from Japan in time for dad's funeral.

-And other spouses are touched by the television program showing an elderly lady placing a card in front of a long, black wall with names on it. The card simply says "Happy Birthday, Sweetheart. You would have been sixty today." A military spouse is the lady with the card. And the wall is the Vietnam Memorial.

Military spouses pay a price for freedom as do their husbands or wives.

Dying in service to our country isn't nearly as hard as loving someone who has died in service to our country, and having to live without them. God bless our military spouses for all they freely give.

917th Wing Training Schedule

January 5-6, 2002

Time	Event	Location
Saturday		
0600	UTA prayer breakfast	Red River Inn Dining
0630-0700	Sign-in	Assigned unit
0700-1200	Immunizations	Base hospital, 1st floor
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0700	Intro -- all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0730	Long & Short fly physicals	Flight surgeon office
0730-1000	Body fat measurement	Base hospital
0800	Physicals (non-fly)	Base hospital foyer
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0900-1000, 1300-1400	Yellow fever shots	Base hospital
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm 227
0930, 1030 & 1330	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1000	Unit deployment managers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1000	First sergeants' meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1100 - 1200	Praise Team rehearsal	MPF Auditorium
1200	Flightline drivers training	Bldg. 6825, Rm. 243
1300	HRDC meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1300	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
1300	Unit Safety Rep. meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1400	MSSQ commander's call	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550--CES, MSS, WG	1600--LG 1610--MS
Sunday		
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit
0730	Information Management Training	Bldg. 4238, STARBASE
0730	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0800	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800	Career advisor training	Bldg. 6815, T-Net
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0830	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2
0900	Unit advisory council	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0945	EO First Duty Station Part 1	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1000-1030	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor
1300	EO First Duty Station Part 2	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
1430	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550--CES, MSS, WG	1600--LG 1610--MS

Know anyone who is looking for a recruiter?

Barksdale AFB, La.

Master Sgt. Joe Menna
Master Sgt. Don Copeland
Tech. Sgt. Gary Johnson
1-800-241-4071

Monroe, La.

318-323-1898

Texarkana, Texas

Staff Sgt. Matt Lucas
903-223-7030

Shreveport, La.

Master Sgt. Ellen Shaheed
318-683-0331

Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Tech. Sgt. TeNeuss Land
501-987-7188

Mesquite/Tyler, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Clark Fitzpatrick
972-681-6384/903-534-8618

SERVICES

Military Personnel Flight

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, ext. 9205

Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. - Newcomers in-processing.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)

Sunday

7 - 8 a.m. - Closed for training.

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)

2:30 - 4 p.m. - Closed for training.

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All service

Friday before the UTA

7 a.m. - 6 p.m. All service

NOTE: Customer Service functions include in & out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, Vehicle Decals, Record Reviews, etc.

Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week (reservations required).

Chaplain

Bldg. 6803, Room 239, 456-9179

Friday & Saturday - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Red River Dining Hall

Bldg. 4631

Breakfast - 5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

Lunch MS - 11 - 1 47FS - 11:45

WG - 11 MSS - 11:45 93 BS - 11:15

CES - noon SFS - 12:15

NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.

Family Readiness

Bldg. 4713

Saturday & Sunday - 8 - 11 a.m.

Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in Bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours:

Saturday & Sunday noon - 2 p.m.

Lodging

For information on official or space "A" lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Once the automated system answers, key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

Military Pay

Main UTA Schedule

Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Gov. Credit Card Service

Bldg. 6803, Room 203, 456-9546

Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Main UTA - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Saturday only)

Military clothing issue

Wednesday 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Main UTA Saturday 10 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m.

Chili cookoff raises money for Gatorfest 2002



Capt. John Snowman, 917th Logistic Support Squadron commander tastes chili during a fundraiser for Gatorfest 2002.



PHOTOS BY BETTY STEPHENS

Above: Judges make their final decisions on the winners of the Chili cookoff held in the 917th Parachute Shop during November. Chili was judged on color, consistency, aroma, taste and after taste. Coming in First Place was David Oakes, 47th Fighter Squadron crewchief, 2nd Place Tech. Sgt. David Owens, 917th Logistics Group training assistant and Third Place went to Senior Master Sgt. Mary Bauer, 917th Maintenance Squadron AGE Flight supervisor.

Bottom left: Oakes offers his special chili to Gina Brooks, 917th Maintenance Squadron Information Management clerk.



UTA Schedule

Main

Jan. 5-6, 2002
Feb. 2-3
Mar. 2-3
April 6-7
May 4-5
June 8-9
July 13-14
Aug. 3-4
Sept. 7-8
Oct. 5-6
Nov. 2-3
Dec. 7-8

Alternate

Jan. 12-13, 2002
Feb. 9-10
Mar. 16-17
April 20-21
May 18-19
No alternate
July 20-21
August 17-18
Sept. 21-22
Oct. 19-20
Nov. 16-17
No alternate

917th Wing
1000 Davis Ave. East
Barksdale AFB, LA 71110-2287

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